Near North District School Board

SEAC meeting

Wednesday, September 23, 2026
Meeting ID: 258 917 419 592 946
Passcode: mw3Sh6ji
Teams Meeting Link
Tel: (844) 883-2385,,

Present
Kim Paui, Superintendent of Education
Alison Clarke, Principal of Special Education
Ashley Gasson, Executive Assistant
Kim Gignac, Special Education Coordinator – North Region
Lisa Paradis, Spec Ed Coordinator – East & West Regions
Candy St. Onge, Almaguin Highlands Community Living
Chris Guillemette, Community Living North Bay
Leigh Armstrong, Community Living Parry Sound
Laura Hansman, Ontario Parents of Visually Impaired Children (OPVIC)
Caroline Labrecque, Nipissing First Nation
Jay MacJanet, CEO/CEDO

Regrets
Tammy Adjoudj, Nipissing Down Syndrome Society

Land Acknowledgement Presented by Kim Pauli

Call to Order at 1:02

Attendance
Members and staff introduced themselves. Attendance was confirmed for those participating in the North Bay Board Room and online.

Agenda Approval
Motioned by Chris Guillemette. Seconded by Leigh Armstrong. *Carried*

Approval of the Minutes of the June 10, 2026 meeting.
Motion by Chris Guillemette. Seconded by Caroline Labrecque. *Carried*

Elections for Chair and Vice-Chair
Discussion regarding elections.

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Elections for Chair
Call for nominations -Chris Guillemette nominated Candy St. Onge for the position of Chair.
Candy St. Onge indicated that they were willing to take on the position of Chair
Nominations closed.

Announcement of the Chair
Motion: That Candy St. Onge be acclaimed as the Chair of SEAC for a one-year term, effective immediately and ending in June 2027.
Moved by Leigh Armstrong. Seconded by Chris Guillemette

Elections for Vice-Chair
Call for nominations - Chris Guillemette nominated Leigh Armstrong for the position of Vice Chair.
Leigh Armstrong indicated that they would be willing to take on the position of Vice-Chair.
Nominations closed.

Announcement of Vice-Chair
Motion: That Leigh be acclaimed as the Vice Chair of SEAC for a one-year term, effective immediately and ending in June 2027.
Moved by Chris Guillemette . Seconded by Jay MacJanet

Destruction of ballot – both positions were acclaimed, and there was no need for the use of ballots.

Business Arising from the Minutes
IEP Presentation by Special Education Coordinators

- Presentation "Partnering for Success" provided by Kim G
  Presentation provided in meeting package
  Members discussed how medical diagnoses such as FASD may inform assessment and supports but do not, by themselves, determine an exceptionality. Chris Guillemette requested a copy of the presentation; it will be included with the minutes package.

Standing Items
Community Partner updates

- Chris Guillemette shared Community Living North Bay activities for National Disability Employment Awareness Month, including "Light It Up" on October 15

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and a Halloween event with the North Bay Fire Department; donations of candy and adult costumes are welcome

- Leigh Armstrong reported that the new Parry Sound K–12 school is operating well, students supported through the CTEP program have started school, and staff trauma-informed care training is planned for October.
- Laura Hansman advised that Ontario Parents of Visually Impaired Children will resume meetings at the end of September.
- Caroline Labrecque had no update.

Correspondence received

- None received to date

Reports

Board Report – Jay MacJanet, CEO/CEDO

- Jay MacJanet reported that development of a new five-year strategic plan begins with the Critical Thinking Consortium. Consultation will include community, staff, student, and parent voices, with a focus on marginalized students and system data. He also provided an update on the Parry Sound school, including work to address building deficiencies and complete outdoor spaces, and emphasized continued capacity-building for teachers and administrators.

Special Education Report- Alison Clarke

- During August and September 2026, NNDSB provided summer learning supports using Ministry funding and delivered programs in collaboration with the Board's Curriculum Team. Special education-specific supports during the summer included offering five virtual learning camps designed for students with special education needs: One Social Coding program, two High School Transition programs, one Mathematics program, and one Literacy program. In addition, in-person transition supports were provided throughout August and early September to facilitate successful school transitions for students with special education needs. A total of 10 elementary schools and 5 secondary schools participated in this transition initiative.

- Another significant initiative introduced across NNDSB this year, with active involvement from the Special Education Team, was the implementation of formal In-School Team Meetings in every elementary and secondary school. This process establishes a consistent and structured approach to identifying,

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monitoring, and supporting students who may require additional interventions or services.

- Through regularly scheduled team meetings, school staff engage in collaborative discussions to review student strengths, needs, and progress, fostering a proactive, data-informed approach within a Multi-Tiered System of Supports (MTSS) framework focused on student achievement and well-being. These meetings provide dedicated time for school teams to identify concerns, review the effectiveness of existing interventions, develop action plans, and determine next steps. Outcomes may include targeted Tier 1 classroom supports, access to enhanced Tier 2 or Tier 3 interventions, or referrals to internal and external support services, as appropriate.
- On September 22, 2025, a System Special Education Meeting for Administrators, Differentiated Learning Resource Teachers (DLRTs) and Special Education Teachers (SECTs), meeting was held wherein the central special education team offered presentations, learning and training on the following topics: Individual Education Plan (IEP) Development, RISE Software and Special Education Referral Process.
- The central special education team looks forward to offering Educational Assistant professional learning at regional in-person sessions throughout the 2026-27 school year. PD sessions will be offered on the following topics: Demystifying Anxiety, Pragmatics and Social Communication, Behaviour Management Systems Re-Certification Training, Supporting Students with Autism and Mental Health Training.
- Earlier this month, SO Kim Pauli and Principal Clarke met with members of the Special Olympics committee of North Bay to discuss the 2027 North Bay Provincial Winter Games that will be hosted in North Bay at the end of January 2027. 11 local athletes within a total of 300 athletes will be participating in the winter events at venues around North Bay. NNDSB has committed to promoting Special Olympics through communication avenues, by encouraging attendance at events and by supporting fundraising opportunities where possible. If committee members are interested in getting involved and supporting, more information can be found at “provincialgames.com.”
- The Special Education team currently has a .5 FTE vacancy for the position of Teacher of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing role (east/west regions), a 1.0 FTE temporary Speech Language Pathologist vacancy and a 1.0 Psychologist position vacancy. Principal Clarke also shared anticipated upcoming staffing changes within the special education coordinator positions.

SEAC Chair Report

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- Candy St. Onge reported that she will attend Gather and Grow on October 3, volunteer with Camp Molly from October and participate in the November Smile Cookie campaign benefiting Burk's Falls.

New Business

Membership Review

- The membership list will be revised for 2026–27. Members may send alternate names and role/title changes to Ashley Gasson. Members were reminded to notify Ashley in advance if their attendance at meetings.

Review of SEAC Annual Agenda, Goals and Dates 2026–27

- Principal Clarke reviewed the annual agenda. The committee agreed to adjust upcoming presentations. An EQAO-focused presentation is planned for October, with the Student Achievement Plan presentation moving to November. Transition supports remain planned for December, with math and literacy interventions, budget, safe schools and a virtual special education classroom tour scheduled later in the year as appropriate.
- The October meeting date was confirmed as October 28, 2026.

Adjournment at 1:57
Motion by Leigh Armstrong. Second by Jay MacJanet. *Carried*

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